

10/582927

AP3 Rec'd PCT/PTO 13 JUN 2005

Attorney Docket No. 2003P01930WOUS

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Eduardo Compains et al

Application Number: Unassigned

Filing Date: Concurrently Herewith

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

Title: BELLOWS-TYPE COLLAR FOR WASHING MACHINES

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98, I am submitting a completed "INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANTS" (*Form PTO/SB/08A*) with patents and/or publications as delineated therein attached.

DE 43 04 009 discloses that the invention relates to a laundry treatment appliance, such as a washing machine or a washer dryer, with a tub having a preferably rotatably mounted drum receiving the laundry, the tub being closed by means of a door inspection glass, and with a device for measuring an electrical property of the laundry or of the washing fluid. In order to provide a simple and easily produced device for measuring electrical variables of the laundry or of the washing fluid, in the abovementioned laundry dryer the inspection glass is provided with an electrically conductive coating.

DE 196 37 206 discloses that a connecting sleeve consists of an elastic tube body to create a water-tight connection between a filling opening (1) on the outer housing of a washing machine and the inner filling opening on the oscillating washing solution container. The tube body (3) has no wall sections (8), which can hit each other during spinning.

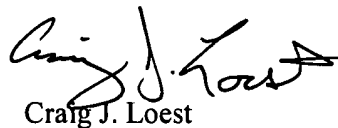
DE 38 43 386 discloses a front-loading drum-type washing machine with an electrical light source (9) for illuminating the laundry-drum interior (11), in which the laundry drum (7) is arranged rotatably in a tub (5) and a concertina-type seal (8) extends between the machine housing (1, 2) and the tub (5) around the loading orifice (3). The loading orifice (3) is closed

by a pot-like bull's eye door window (4, 4') extending as far as the laundry drum (7). The electrical light source (9) is provided outside the tub (5). The light source (9) is assigned a light guide (10) which is guided through the concertina-type seal (8) and which is directed with its light-exit region (12) towards the inside of the laundry-drum rear wall.

DE 1 707 526 discloses a seal for an opening of a container having a closure cover and a sealing ring made of soft elastic material, preferably for the loading opening of a washing machine, wherein the sealing ring has a U-shaped profile and is arranged such that a leg of the U-shaped profile forms a lip on the edge to be sealed off, whereupon, when the closure cover is closed the edge to be sealed off is pressed in the direction of the U-shaped profile.

If no translation of pertinent portions of any foreign language patents or publications mentioned within the "INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANTS" is included with the aforementioned copies of those applications, patents and/or publications, it is because no existing translation is readily available to the Applicants. As per the Notice in 1273 OG 55 (August 5, 2003) no copies of any above-mentioned US patents and US patent application publications are submitted for this application which was filed after June 30, 2003.

Respectfully submitted



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June 13, 2006

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**Complete if Known**

*(Use as many sheets as necessary)*

Sheet	1	of	1
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Application Number	Unassigned
Filing Date	Concurrently Herewith
First Named Inventor	Eduardo Compains et al
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	2003P01930WOUS

## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		DE 43 04 009	08/18/1994	Wilfried Butterweck et al		
		DE 196 37 206	03/19/1998	Horst Hoppe et al		
		WO 03/012185	02/13/2003	John H. North		✓
		DE 38 43 386	07/05/1990	Klaus Gute et al		
		DE 1 707 526	09/22/1955	Siemens AG		✓
		International Search Report PCT/EP2004/053550				

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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